

# **Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station**

**CIRCULAR No. 130**

WOOSTER, OHIO, FEBRUARY 18, 1913

## **TREE PLANTING ON PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

BY EDMUND SECREST

Since the law relative to the teaching of agriculture in the public schools of Ohio has become effective the Experiment Station has received numerous requests from teachers and superintendents for information in regard to forestry. Especially have these requests touched upon the matter of trees for planting on school grounds and exhibits of wood and herbarium specimens.

The Station is prepared to distribute seedling trees to high schools and centralized schools in accordance with certain restrictions regarding their care and disposition. This work is intended to be educational, in that it shall embrace as many operations as practicable, from the growing of the seedlings to the final operation of transplanting in permanent location. The Station will not distribute trees of proper size for transplanting. In the case of evergreen or coniferous species, one or two year old seedlings will be available; likewise certain hardwoods, such as oak, yellow poplar, maple, etc. of one year's growth may be had. It will be necessary therefore that the schools wishing trees shall provide suitable nursery areas in which they may be grown to transplant size. A space approximately one rod square will amply support four hundred trees in nursery rows until they are large enough to transplant. It is necessary that they be given proper culture during the nursery stage. This work can be done by the pupils. Where sufficient space on the school grounds is available the operations may be carried still further than the nursery stage and the mere transplanting of individual shade or ornamental specimens. A dozen or more trees may be planted in groups or plots, and thus demonstrate the forestry value of the species, as well as the ornamental. This scheme is being carried out by a centralized school under the Station's direction, and is one in which much good to forestry in general will result, besides the educational value to the pupils.

Certain species of hardwoods are easily propagated from the seed, and small quantities will be available for distribution in the fall of 1913 and thereafter. All nut planting should be done in the

fall of the year in order to insure germination the following spring. evergreen propagation is difficult and it requires skill and considerable equipment to produce seedlings of this group. Because of this and of the high cost of seed, it does not seem advisable for teachers to attempt such work.

Preference for tree species should always be expressed by the applicant, and the Station will comply in so far as the supply may be drawn upon, and the soil and other conditions in the locality in the judgment of the Forester will warrant the planting of such species.

Those wishing to take advantage of the provisions contained in this circular should fill the accompanying blank and forward to the Forester of the Experiment Station, at Wooster, Ohio.

A publication is available on "How to Prepare Forestry Exhibits for Public Schools." Copies may be secured on application to the Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio.

### **THE FARM WOODLOT. AN ASSET OR A LIABILITY, WHICH ?**

According to the agricultural statistics, Ohio has approximately 300,000 acres of timber land, held mostly in small tracts as farm woodlots. The Ohio Experiment Station has made a survey of a considerable portion of these tracts, and has found that 85 percent are used for pasture purposes, and are unprofitable for woodlot uses. A large percent of the unpastured tracts are either unprofitable or do not yield what they should. The fact is also evident that the woodlot pastures are generally inferior to open grazing lands, and that a combination of woodlot and pasture is a dual loss. This condition is responsible for much loss to the land owners of Ohio. The woodlot is part of the farm that has been given little thought or attention by the owner. Too often he destroys valuable young timber that should have been saved, or retains that which should be cut and marketed. Oftentimes timber land should be cleared of the growth and be devoted to other purposes. In most cases it is a problem for a forester and not for the landowner to solve.

The Experiment Station is prepared to give assistance to woodlot owners and upon request will send a forester to make an examination of any forest tract, and to offer suggestions for its management. In some cases the Station will make detailed plans of operation, accompanied by a map. This work is done without cost to the land owner, other than transportation from the nearest railroad station to the farm and back. If you desire examination of your woodlot, write the forester of the Experiment Station or fill out the accompanying blank, and forward to him.

To The Forester,  
Ohio Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio.

Dear Sir:—

In accordance with the provisions of your circular I hereby make application for an assortment of trees, which will be grown in nursery rows on the grounds of this school and given attention until of proper size for transplanting.

Name of school (state whether it is a high school, centralized township school or district school) .....

Location ..... Township ..... County .....

No. of acres in school grounds .....

Species of trees preferred .....

Please ship trees to ..... Station .....

..... Express. P. O. ....

(Signed) .....  
(Superintendent or teacher.)

To the Forester of the Experiment Station,

I hereby make application for an examination of my woodlot consisting of ..... acres and located ..... miles ..... of ..... of .....  
*direction* ..... *R. R. station* ..... or ..... miles ..... *direction* ..... of .....  
..... in ..... township .....  
*R. R. Station* ..... county.

I shall wish about ..... days notice and am connected with the ..... telephone exchange.

Signed .....

P. O. ....

Date of Mailing .....

This page intentionally blank.